

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Developed Contraceptive Cream

82. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's scientists have developed a new contraceptive cream by making use of 'neem' tree;

(b) if so, whether this contraceptive cream has been tested on human beings;

(c) if so, whether this cream has been found useful as a contraceptive; and

(d) if so, the time by which this cream is likely to be made available to the customers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (d) Scientists of the Defence Institute of Physiology and Applied Sciences, under the Ministry of Defence have developed a neem-based contraceptive. According to information given by the Defence Institute of Physiology and Applied Sciences, the contraceptive has not so far been tested on human beings, but it has been found useful as a pre-coital vaginal contraceptive in animal experiments. The availability of the contraceptive to the customers will depend upon the successful completion of trials on human beings.

[English]

Power Projects

83. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVEENCHANDRA MEHTA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Asian Development Bank has decided to finance some power projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether ADB has sought the counter guarantee from the States/Union Government for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) ADB has identified loan and technical

assistance for 1998-2000 for the following projects/schemes in the power sector:—

Lending

1.	Gujarat Power Sector Restructuring (SDP)	\$ 300 m.
2.	PFC	\$ 500 m.
3.	State Power Sector Restructuring II (SDP)	\$ 300 m.
4.	Southern Region Power Station	\$ 250 m.
5.	State Power Sector Restructuring III (SDP)	\$ 300 m.

Technical Assistance

1.	Southern Region Combined Cycle Power Station	\$ 0.600 m.
2.	State Power Sector Restructuring II	\$ 1.000 m.
3.	State Power Sector Restructuring III	\$ 1.000 m.
4.	Support for PFC	\$ 1.000 m.

The actual commitment would be subject to further negotiations with concerned states/executing agencies.

(c) and (d) Where Government of India is the borrower the question of guarantee/counter guarantee does not arise. In cases where the ADB assistance is routed directly to the Implementing Agency with the approval of the Government of India, the debt serving charges of the ADB are guaranteed by Government of India.

Mejia Thermal Power Project

84. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the time likely to be taken to synchronise the third unit of Mejia Thermal Power Project;

(b) the bottlenecks faced by the Government in executing the project; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Third unit of Mejia Thermal Power Project of

Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) is likely to be synchronised by March, 1998.

(b) *The bottleneck faced by DVC in executing the project include delays in land acquisition, slow progress by suppliers of equipment and the contractors responsible for various work packages, industrial relations problems and financial constraints.*

(c) The steps taken by the Union Government to help DVC overcome the bottlenecks included:—

- intervention to settle the unresolved contractual/extra contractual matters between DVC and B.H.E.L. which is responsible for supply and erection of Boiler and TG set for the unit.
- requesting the State government to maintain law & order and assist DVC in maintaining a good industrial relations climate at work sites.
- asking DVC to improve its process of contract management in future.
- increased budgetary support for the project during 1997-98.

Unemployed Youths

85. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of unemployed youths in Kashmir have joined militancy because of their being unemployed; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to bring them back to the mainstream and the success achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b) Government is aware of the unemployment problem in the State of J & K. Recruitment drives have been launched by the Central and State Government for the same and also by providing avenues of self employment.

A scheme has been formulated for surrender and rehabilitation of the surrendered militants with the main objectives of offering inducement and incentives to militants to leave the path of violence and join the main stream and to ensure that the surrendered militants do not revert to militancy. The impact of the surrender policy has been encouraging so far. 1317 militants have surrendered from

August 15, 1995 to September 30, 1997 i.e. after announcement of the policy.

Revised Interim Relief

86. DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to State:

(a) whether the Government propose to pay revised interim relief to the journalists and non-journalists of newspaper and news agencies, keeping in view the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission;

(b) whether there is any proposal to review and revise the pay scales of journalists and non-journalists; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the date from which interim relief is likely to be paid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Matter concerning revision of pay scales etc. of journalists and non-journalists is with the Wage Boards set up under the Chairmanship of Justice R.K. Manisana Singh and the Boards have yet to submit their final recommendations.

(c) Does not arise

Contaminated I.V. Fluid

87. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether contaminated I.V. fluid is still being used in the Government hospitals in Delhi unabatedly;

(b) if so, the number of cases that have come to light during the last one year, hospital-wise;

(c) the firm from which the contaminated I.V. fluid purchased along with the rate at which fluid was purchased and how does that tally with the rate of reputed manufacturers; and

(d) the steps taken to weed out corruption in the matter of purchase of drugs and other items by the Government hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) No, Sir, as far as Central Government Hospitals in Delhi are concerned.

(b) Three cases of contaminated I.V. Fluid were reported in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital. The I.V. Fluid of these batch numbers were immediately withdrawn.